

Appl. No. 10/091,380
Amdt. dated June 8, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 14, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Two Office Actions dated 03/14/05 and 03/18/05 were received, the two Office Actions appearing to be identical. To simplify the prosecution, this response is directed to the more recent Office Action of 03/18/05.

In the Office Action, request was made for a more descriptive title of the invention, a more descriptive title being provided by this response.

Claims 11-13, 15-21 and 24-34 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Akira (JP 10-136541), claims 22-23 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Akira, and claim 14 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Akira in view of Sugiyama (EP 1,076,341) for reasons set forth in the Office Action.

Reconsideration of these rejections is requested respectfully in view of the amendment and the argument herein.

In order to overcome the foregoing rejections and secure allowable subject matter in the claims, the claims have been amended, as set forth above, to emphasize the novel features of the present invention. In particular, it is noted that independent claim 26 is amended to provide further description of the guide elements, and has been selected to serve as the main

claim upon which other claims depend. The independent claims 11 and 24 have been canceled, and various ones of the dependent claims are amended to depend from claim 26.

The following argument is presented to show allowable subject matter in the claims.

The newly cited reference Akira (JP 10-136541) discloses an instrument panel 1 which contains a foamed resin layer 1d where the wiring harness H is buried in, thus preventing the wiring harness H from touching other components. The electrical leads 2a are arranged in a common plane and are spatially separated from one another by the material 2b.

The Examiner appears to believe that number 2 (figures 2, 3, 4a, 4b) identifies protruding contact pins. But this is not the case. The computer generated translation of Akira, provided on the web page of the Japanese Patent Office, clearly states that number 2 identifies a "flat wiring material". Hence, Akira does not anticipate any protruding contact pins, because there are no contact pins at all. The flat wiring material 2 ends directly in connectors C. Since there are no pins, Akira does not disclose that pins are arranged transversely to the longitudinal extent of the leads, that the leads are stretched between contact pins and that contact pins are pressed into the carrier.

In order to clearly distinguish the guide elements of claim 26 from the material 2b in Akira, there is included in claim 26 material from the feature of claim 34 that the guide elements have the configuration of pins protruding from the carrier.

It is proposed to conduct an interview with the Examiner to discuss the amended set of claims.

With respect to the cancelled claims, it is noted that the subject matter of independent claims 11 and 24 appears substantially in amended independent claim 26. The subject matter of cancelled dependent claims 17, 20, 30 and 32 appears in claim 26 and, accordingly, the claims 17, 20, 30 and 32 are cancelled. The subject matter of claim 33 appears in claim 31, and accordingly claim 33 is cancelled.

With respect to the remaining claims, it is noted that claim 27 is similar to claim 15 but recites the additional limitation that the electrical leads comprise electric wire. Claims 21 and 25 are amended to conform more accurately to the recital of claim 26. In particular, with respect to the amended passage of claim 25, the text "stretched along a plurality of the guide elements" conforms the claim language to the text of the specification on page 5 at line 7. The texts of claims 31 and 34 are edited to conform to the recital of elements in claim 26.

Accordingly, all of the remaining claims along with the foregoing argument are believed to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 102 and 103 so as to obtain allowable subject matter in the claims.

An interview was conducted on June 8, 2005 by telephone between Applicant's representative and Examiner Prasad. Prior to the interview, a draft of the present response was faxed to the Examiner for discussion at the interview.

This is a report on the substance of the interview. It was noted that independent claim 11 was canceled, and that independent claim 26 became the main claim (the only independent claim), wherein various ones of the claims were amended to depend from claim 26.

It was pointed out to the Examiner that the amendatory passage inserted at the end of claim 26 describes the guide elements as having the configuration of pins protruding from the carrier. This is shown in present Figs. 2-3 and is discussed on page 5 of the present specification. The Examiner requested clarification of language in claim 26, at line 7, describing protruding contact pins, and clarifying language presented in this response was developed during the interview.

With respect to the guide elements, and their configuration as pins, it was noted that the present specification teaches (page 2 at lines 4-6) that the pins can be fixed in position precisely to enable automated mounting of the leads. This overcomes a disadvantage of the prior art (specification on page 1 at lines 24-25) that the mounting of leads is complex and cannot be automated. This is not taught by Akira wherein a wiring harness 2 is disclosed, as has been learned from an English translation obtained at a website of the Japanese patent office. The Examiner stated that this response overcomes the rejection based on the teaching of Akira, and that further searching would be done upon submission of this response.

The Examiner also requested that Applicant provide the English translation of this passage in Akira, and an attempt is being


made to obtain this translation. This completes the report on the substance of the interview.

In the event there are further issues remaining in any respect the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone attorney to reach agreement to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.


Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentably and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this amendment is believed to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, enter this amendment, and to allow all of the claims in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the Amendment Upon Final Rejection, and Report on Interview is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent Office on June 8, 2005.


Signed by Martin A. Farber

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